Bristol Oct. 11–47

You once said, dear Miss Weston, that unpacking a box from England without finding any portion of its contents directed to yourself in your individual capacity, left you unsatisfied; so to save you from this unpleasing sensation, & to gratify a taste I think you described yourself as possessing for getting peeps behind the scenes & insights into characters, I have hastily put together for your amusement a few letters selected almost at random from the voluminous correspondence which we now find it impossible to dispose of & classify as it pours in upon us. It would entertain you very much to read these communications as they ~~[illegible]~~ come to hand & to study the various classes of minds at such ~~the~~ different stages of enlightenment with which we have to deal. But at

not take another sheet, tho' you little know how many grave themes as well as gay I am longing to enter upon; things on which I am constantly engaged in mentally communing with you on. To be brought so close to you, dear Miss Weston, is a happiness words cannot express, & still more to be permitted in any way to unite with you in your holy work. Offer to yr family & accept yourself the love of Yr affte
Mary Estlin.

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this moment my time is too much used up for any to be devoted to making such an assortment as I long to show you; we must only hope that by another year the scene of action may be sufficiently shifted & the present struggle enough ~~terminated~~ abated to justify engaging in the lighter work of recording & forwarding to you proofs of what has been accomplished, (or atleast aimed at.) At present we must go on with the war of extermination against New Organization, in which I do believe if Mr W. Phillips & you would come & unite, it might be brought to a victorious issue in the course of the next twelve months. I know you will laugh at me for such a sanguine prediction & remind me that it is ineradicable, being a manifestation of the inherent depravity of human nature which is sure to spring up in some form while

the
temptations ~~of selfish~~ self-interest
continue to put forth their paralyzing
power on moral rectitude. And I
should probably agree with you in
this conclusion, but still feel as if
in a measure
the power of mischief might be so
far crippled by a vigorous attack,
that it would for a season be reduced
to lie dormant, during ~~while~~ fresh forces
to contend against it might be collected.
However I must not lead you to suppose
I am getting demented on the theme
by perpetually harping upon it; only
I want you to know the "extreme
difficulty" we have in making English
people, especially quakers, understand
that it is not the most enlarged kind
of Antislavery to help & co-operate
with "all parties", & that this really
means pulling down with one hand
what you build up with the other;
in fact attempting to serve God &
mammon. I am laboring to bring out

the idea in every Committee minute, o
Resolution, or newspaper paragraph,
or official letter, or private communic
and I hope in time to meet with some
success; but you will see by the tone of t
letters in the Bristol papers of Mr Young, Mr Cl
Mr Charleton, & Jos. Sturge how confused
some people are, & how difficult it is to set them
right, with such crafty antagonists to
keep up their bewilderment. Perhaps
the knowledge of the prevalence of
this state of mind may afford you so
guidance in shaping the next Bazaar G
Your last continues doing a valuab
work, & is constantly in circulation, but
happily with us the question now is not shall
we keep aloof ~~with~~ from the American
Society? but shall we not recognize it, & the
"American & Foreign" & the "Vigilance Com
& the Free Labor, & the Canada Mission &c. &c. as all deserving
the same countenance because all do
the same work? However as much in
recent developments of the present aspec
of the cause will have reached you befor
you peruse this I will not dwell on
these points, but will do my best to keep
you informed of what is going on; for
I feel it is a critical period & you ought

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to be aware of every phase of the battle.
Mrs Chapman is very well contented
& declares that tho' the conflict with the
followers of
Jos. Sturge (who declines "controversy
with the Garrison party" when asked by
innocent inquirers why he does not
talk over his differences with Mrs C. &c)
may be long & tedious, that "the Lord has
delivered them into our hands." I have
put up for your inspection a good many
notes received on various occasions from
Miss Tribe, because they contain little
bits of information that will give you
an insight into the under currents that
are & have been at work, & also will show
you her progressive state of mind. I feel
particularly proud of her as a pupil, because
she ~~imbibed~~ derived her early Antislavery lessons
from Capt. Chas Stuart, & was long under
Scoble's tutorship, & consequently had all her ideas of
American Abolitionism embodied in
Lewis Tappan, & Miss Ball, & imbibed
the holy horror of Mr Garrison & his

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associates which has been all but
universal here (thanks to Scoble's & Sturge's
industry,) & she is still linked to parties
whose sectarian prejudices tend to keep
them in the dark. I am sure you will
think her worth cultivating. If there is
anything more personal in her notes
than she w^d have approved of letting
others peruse, it is owing to my not having
time to read them over attentively, & you
must overlook them as quickly as you
can. I am sure many of her allusions
will amuse you. You see how largely
I reckon on your candor & your chari-
table constructions of everything that
comes before you in this way. It is a
very unfortunate circumstance that
Miss Tribe is ill & away for an indefinite
time now: ~~that~~ for we are so much in want
of hands that we daily have to let
golden opportunities for making &
strengthening right impressions slip
by, & to take hold of about one in ten of
the things that it is most desirable

should be attended to. I have some
thoughts of suggesting to Emma that
as she gets a great deal of credit for
other people's "sacrifices" for the cause
made before she was a voluntary agent
she had better embrace such an oppor-
-tunity as may never occur again
for making a bona fide one, & come to
us for the winter instead of returning
to Paris; for, with one well informed
& dis-engaged co-operator we really might
effect something! I fear she won't see
the weight of my arguments: She seems
longing for the day of her emancipation
& the reunion with her family. She & my
Father keep up such a brisk correspon-
-dence that he has recalled all his
former surmises about her inability
to use the pen. I am very glad he has
been writing to you from Brighton,
& letting you know the latest news of
Mr Grant's state of mind. My present

solitude forms a great contrast to the animated scene the house has lately presented; but without disparagemen to the absentees I must own the undi turbed hours for getting ~~on with~~ thro' accum lated duties is very agreeable, & our rec companions are always present with me, so that no effort can convince me of our separation. In fact you are all entwined into our daily existen so closely that you would strive in vain to extricate yourselves, & your joys, & sorrows, & experiences will be our henceforth. You therefore do not need my assurance of the thankfulness we have felt at the continually improv accounts of your brother, & how fondly w hope his return to Weymouth may accel erate his progress. I dare not touch on m nearly on personal relations and inte for it w^d be impossible to stop, & a sen of duty forbids my following the dictate of inclination by sitting up all night, to run over, with you, the scenes & occurrences & com -munings, &c. of the last few weeks. I sh

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gladly describe to you the impressions each of your sisters made on different people, & give you a picture of those who are most deeply affected by their departure. But without knowing them it would convey but little definite notion to paint Mr James coming pathetically to ask "if we have any news from Paris," & gradually expanding into the fullness of his enthusiasm over Miss Weston's wonderful gifts, or Mr Armstrong taking up the same theme; or Mr Edwin Chapman begging for any scraps of letters from our late party to read to his wife who can talk & think of no one but Mrs Chapman, and all the other people young & old whose loving thoughts are following them to their distant abode, & hoping the day may come when they shall see them again; All this must be left for you to imagine, only I must make you clear that I am using no figurative language but very much understating the way in which these sentiments are expressed. I was trying to find some notes which would

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[illegible]
speak for themselves, but cannot lay my
hand on them. I think you must be
amused at the impression produced on
the Dissenters of England by your little
poem of the "Come outers" which Miss Tribe
contrived to get into the Bristol Examiner,
& on which when we saw it there, we seized
with avidity & had slips of, which have
been in active circulation ever since,
& have found their way into nearly all
the papers or periodicals of the different
dissenting bodies. I have ~~just~~ enclosed
a few of Mrs Massie's communications
many
but as they are all in the same style
as those you have seen, simply modified
by the circumstances which give rise
to them, they will not give you much
fresh light. I can't resist sending one
of Miss I. Jennings's effusions, which is
a fair type of those with which she often
favors us, & she has representatives in
two or three other towns. We have
found it best hitherto to let F. Douglass's
admirers alone till they discover
their own delusion; they would have
called us "partizans," & "prejudiced" by the

Boston Abolitionists who have never
done ~~him~~ F.D. justice" &c. &c. if we had tried
earlier to set them right: the time of their
enlightenment cannot be far distant.
As *our* *locality*s will have some interest
with your family just at this time, I
have put up a few little ~~sketches~~ views of our
scenery for your sisters, & would have
endeavoured to find some more finished
ones if there had been time to look up any
thing for enclosing in the box this year.
But as you know I have been forced to
relinquish entirely all concern for its
*imme*diate interests for the sake of
promoting them on future collecting
times. You can't think how disappointing
it is not to have been able even to give
a couple of days to preparing some trays ornamented
with leather ~~in~~ which I meant to have
sent, ~~few~~ cutting leaves for which all your family took
some part, & respecting which therefore
I thought you would *feel a sentiment*,
as well as ourselves. But the leisure
for indulging sentiment is far from

having arrived! The treasures of our
box will not find less favor in your
eyes from bearing traces of your sister
handy work in prizing them. We tri
to follow their guidance, but I fear ma
so many blunders after their departu
thro' our ignorance that we may hav
only increased instead of lessening y
labors. I know there were some fore
baskets marked on some mistaken
scale wh would require reduction, & a
certain flower stand that had a $9. in
of a $5. marked on it, or some such as egregio
mistake. I can only say we intended wel
but that branch of learning is as foreign
to me as plaiting hair to you. I wish
you could have looked upon the party
when they were sitting round our drawin
room table ticketting the things, & heard th
clamor & cross questioning that went on
& witnessed the trial our tempers had to
endure by my Father & Lizzy choosing to
establish themselves at the same table &
to spoil the tops we were vainly trying to mar
& play "going to tea" with a set of wooden tea thin
wh they persisted in spreading out to our
great discomposure! It was universally
agreed however that these were necessities
to which "all true friends to the cause" in
in this department had to put up with. I

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